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[2] CCITT Temporary Document 39, Melbourne, Australia, December 1991, WPXVIII/8 Meeting Report—Annex 3 (Part 2), "Text of WP XVIII/8 B-ISDN Recommendations," Appendices 9 & 10, Draft Recommendation I.363, "B-ISDN ATM Adaptation Layer (AAL) Specification."

[3] ANSI T1S1.5 / 91-449, "AAL5—A New High Speed Data Transfer AAL," November 1991.

[4] IEEE Standard 802.6-1990, "Distributed Queue Dual Bus (DQDB) Subnetwork of a Metropolitan Area Network (MAN)."

[5] Bellcore Technical Reference TR-TSV-000772, Issue 1, May 1991, "Generic System Requirements in Support of Switched Multi-Megabit Data Service."

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MIKE ZEUG is in the Advanced Network Technologies group in Ameritech Services. Presently he is concentrating on Broadband ISDN protocol definition and is actively involved in CCITT SG XVIII WP8 and the T1S1.5 standards committee, where he holds the office of Vice-Chairman. He has BS degrees in Electrical Engineering and Mathematics from the University of Wisconsin and a MS degree in Electrical Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

A Letter to the Editor

Ole,

You will find enclosed an object from Prague, Czechoslovakia that is rapidly becoming a collector's item. You are probably unfamiliar with *electronic mail license plates,* so please allow me to explain their purpose.

Until 1989, electronic mail in Czechoslovakia, as with other Eastern Bloc countries, was a sensitive technology. Access to even basic e-mail was carefully limited to high-ranking members of the Communist party. Multimedia messaging was strictly restricted to members of the Politburo and the Central Committee.

Throughout the country, the Computing Directorate of the Communist Party placed terminal clusters, used by officials to carry out their duties. It was always possible, however, that a member of the lümpenproletariat might wander in off the street and begin "hacking." Such a situation might well prove disastrous; you can well imagine the havoc that can be caused by excessive use of messaging systems.

To prevent such a situation, officials were issued e-mail license plates. Before using an account in a facility, the user would slip the license plate into the holder provided on the front of the terminal, allowing the e-mail police to quickly detect potential intruders.

The 1989 revolution did away with these relics of central control. Today, anybody with a leased line has access to modern messaging services and many of the e-mail police are awaiting trial.

—Carl Malamud

[Ed.: The enamel plate is reproduced full size above. Mr. Malamud is currently travelling the world to "explore the Internet."]